

National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals

Program Overview

January 2007

The National Roster of Environmental Dispute Resolution and Consensus Building Professionals (“Roster of ECR Practitioners”) is managed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an independent, impartial federal program established by Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource and public lands disputes. The roster was developed, with the support of the Environmental Protection Agency, after three years of gathering input from users, private dispute resolution practitioners, and others. The roster first became operational in February 2000 and the searchable database became directly accessible to the public in October 2004.

Purpose of the Roster and the Referral/Advice System

This system is designed to provide:

- **an efficient, credible and user-friendly source** from which to systematically identify experienced environmental mediators, facilitators, consensus builders, process designers, conflict assessors, system designers, neutral evaluators/fact finders, superfund allocators, regulatory negotiation neutrals.
- **detailed Practitioner Profiles**, as a helpful first step in the process of selecting an appropriate neutral.
- **information and advice about selecting an appropriate neutral and using collaborative processes.**
- **a useful tool for locating appropriate practitioners and a central place from which...**
 - anyone involved in environmental disputes or situations can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues.
 - the U.S. Institute can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues, particularly to implement the enabling legislation which directs the U.S. Institute to use service providers in the geographic area of the dispute to the maximum extent possible.
 - the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Conflict Prevention and Dispute Resolution Center, EPA Regional ADR Specialists, the Department of Interior’s Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution, the DOI Dispute Resolution Council, and the Federal Highway Administration can locate practitioners who have experience with environmental issues.

Roster Search and Referral Services are Available to:

- **Anyone interested in locating ECR practitioners! The roster search became directly accessible to the public in October 2004.** Now anyone interested in locating ECR practitioners can contact the roster manager for a referral or search the roster directly.
- Federal agencies, Tribes, state and local government, environmental/conservation NGOs, industry, academics, general public, and others
- U.S. Institute as a primary source for identifying practitioners when making referrals and when locating neutrals for subcontracting
- EPA Conflict Prevention and Dispute Resolution Center (CPRC), Regional EPA ADR personnel, and the administrators of the EPA prime contract
- DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and DOI Dispute Resolution Council (IDRC: ADR personnel from various DOI bureaus)
- Roster Members

Each Practitioner on the Roster has Experience that Matches These Entry Criteria:

- 1.) Has served as a lead neutral in a collaborative process (e.g., mediation, consensus building, conflict assessment) for at least **200 case hours** in two to ten environmental cases, **and**
- 2.) Has accumulated a total of **60 points across three categories:** additional case experience and complex case experience; experience as a trainer or trainee; and substantive work/volunteer/educational experience in fields related to alternative dispute resolution/environmental conflict resolution, such as law, science, or public administration.

The Practitioner Profile Provided to Referral Requestors (and Available by Searching Directly) Includes:

- contact information, fee structure, and a narrative summary
- descriptions of up to five selected cases
- examples of training courses taken or provided
- a list of the types of issues in which the practitioner has case experience
- areas of the country/foreign countries in which the practitioner has worked
- special capacities (e.g., computer/web support, access to technical experts)
- professional and education experience
- language proficiency information

How the Referral, Advice, and Assistance Process Works

1. A stakeholder or other interested person contacts the Institute.

The roster manager, Joan Calcagno, gathers information from this person and provides advice to ensure a successful selection process and to identify a specific combination of the **search criteria** collated to best meet the characteristics, criteria, and priorities most likely to identify appropriate practitioners.

She also provides advice about the proper use of the Profile as a first step only and the process of working with other participants in selecting an appropriate neutral.

2. The roster manager selects from the available search criteria:

- The practitioner's location
- The type of services needed (mediation, facilitation, consensus building/policy dialogues, regulatory negotiations, superfund allocation, neutral evaluation/fact finding, conflict assessment/process design, dispute system design)
- The type of case experience the practitioner has (from a list of 40 environmental issues)
- The scale of the case/controversy (local/community; state/regional; national; international)
- The geographic areas in which the practitioner has worked (from 13 geographic areas, including foreign countries)
- Special expertise: as a trainer, with complex cases with more than 10 parties, language skills, other project needs (e.g., logistical support for complex cases, language translation or interpretation; information management/computer support)
- Education and professional experience (from a list of 18 subject areas)

3. The search is run in different combinations and narrowed or expanded depending on the number of practitioners from the initial search results and the purpose of the search.

4. The roster manager reviews the Profiles of the practitioners who meet the selected search criteria, sometimes has follow-up contact with the requestor, and prints Practitioner Profiles for those that are a best match.

5. The requestor is sent an explanatory cover letter, the selected Profiles, and two information pieces (one explaining the search results and one providing guidance on the process of selecting a neutral). Contacts for other existing programs and networks of environmental practitioners are also provided, where available and helpful.

Online Search Information

Direct-online searches total 554, February 2000 through December 2006 (includes 212 in 2006)

Purposes for the direct-online searches

- Almost half of the searchers providing feedback in the fiscal year 2006 survey sought practitioners to assist in solving problems or resolving disputes involving environmental, natural resources or public lands issues.
- About thirty percent of respondents were searching for other purposes (e.g., searching for practitioner to assist with resolving other issues, searching for partner for mentoring program, research, assessing expertise available in specific areas, familiarizing themselves with available practitioners).
- About twenty percent used the search to locate practitioners for teaming/partnering.

Direct-online searchers	Direct search access since	Search Totals
EPA	February 2000	129
DOI	November 2002	22
Roster Members	September 2003	100

Direct-online searchers	Roster opened to the public October 2004	Search Totals
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Federal and Tribe

Department of Agriculture/US Forest Service	20
Department of Justice	17
Dept. of Defense/Air Force/Navy/Marine Corps	12
Federal Highway Administration/Dept. of Transportation	9
Bureau of Land Management	6
National Park Service	5
Tribes	3
Others (Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. of Energy, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Commerce Dept./National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Health and Human Services)	12

Non-Federal

Academics	61
Industry/corporate	29
State and local government	29
Public	27
Environmental/conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	23
NGOs other than environmental/conservation	16
Practitioners (non-roster mediators, etc.)	11
Others (e.g., a foundation, territorial government, other ADR program administrators)	23

Referral Information

Referrals total 271, February 2000 through December 2006
(includes 17 in 2006)

A **referral means** that a member's Practitioner Profile/information was provided through the roster manager to a requestor outside the U.S. Institute (external referral) or to a U.S. Institute program manager (internal referral). **As of December 2006, a total of 3,991** Profiles have been provided.

External referral requests 191
Internal referral requests 80

External referrals were requested by people connected with:

Fed Gov/Entities/Contractors	90	Tribes/Tribal Attnys	7
State Gov/Entities/Contractors	19	Academic/Academic Centers	6
Practitioners*	24	International Organizations	2
Corporate/Corp Attnys/Industry	20	Private Citizens/Citizen Attnys	3
NGOs (primarily Env/conserv)	9	Regional Forums/Entities	3

External referrals by region: West: 118 East: 47 Central: 22 National: 1 International: 3

Internal referrals were requested by people connected with:

Federal Government	70	State Entities	4
Regional Forums/Entities	4	Tribes	2

Internal referrals by region: West: 49 East: 15 Central: 6 National: 10

Roster Member Online Search and Referral Statistics

Direct-online Search Activity since October 2004, when the roster became publicly searchable:

- Each roster member's name/contact info appeared in a search results list an approximate average of **127 times**.
- Each roster member's Profile has been reviewed on line an approximate average of **10 times**.

Referrals from February 2000 through December 2006:

- Each roster member has been referred an approximate average of **14.5 times**.
- Roster members who were members at the end of February 2000 have each been referred an approximate average of **22 times**.

Roster Membership Statistics

Current roster members	262
Applicants declined	55
Average environmental/public policy case experience	30 cases
States with at least one listing (including D.C.)	41
Canadian provinces with at least one listing	2

Number of Roster Members in Each State/Province

Alaska	3	Indiana	1	New Jersey	1	Texas	3
Arizona	9	Kansas	2	New Mexico	8	Utah	3
California	31	Maine	9	New York	7	Vermont	4
Colorado	31	Maryland	5	North Carolina	6	Virginia	12
Connecticut	1	Massachusetts	14	Ohio	4	Washington	20
D.C.	14	Michigan	5	Oklahoma	1	West Virginia	2
Florida	9	Minnesota	1	Oregon	20	Wisconsin	2
Georgia	2	Missouri	5	Pennsylvania	3	Wyoming	3
Hawaii	1	Montana	3	Rhode Island	1		
Idaho	4	Nevada	2	South Dakota	2	BC, Canada	1
Illinois	2	New Hampshire	1	Tennessee	2	ON, Canada	2

Current Recruitment Activities

We are now recruiting with a focus on diversity in backgrounds and professional services and for geographic balance, particularly in those states in which currently there are no roster members: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina.

Application Information

How to submit: A roster application can be completed and submitted online (from www.ecr.gov, follow the referral services link to the Roster of ECR Practitioners). Online applications are encouraged. Hard-copy applications are available for those without web access. The application process is ongoing and continuous.

Working from a downloadable paper version: You can print a “non-submittable” version from the “Welcome...” page (the first page after you log in). You can download Acrobat Reader from this same page, if needed. Print out the Instructions and the Glossary also. You can use these materials to fill in information and perhaps your support person can do the actual online work.

It is important to review the entry criteria and read all the instructions and the definitions in the glossary before you submit. The Entry Criteria (with key definitions) are available from the right-hand navigation bar of the roster web pages. The complete Glossary and the Instructions are accessible as a whole, once you have logged in to the application system, by clicking on the item in the right-hand navigation bar on the “Welcome...” page or at the top of any application page. They each can be viewed as a whole in a window. You can print them by using the print function by clicking the right-hand button on your mouse and using the dropdown menu.

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution Website (www.ecr.gov)

Follow the Referral Services link to the Roster of ECR Practitioners.

Available from the righthand navigation bar on the roster pages:

- **Choosing An Appropriate Neutral** (guidance for the process of selecting a neutral)
- **Search & Referral FAQ** (frequently asked questions and answers about the process for getting to the roster members referred)
- **Overview FAQ** (background on the development of the roster)
- Details regarding the **Entry Criteria**
- Links to access the roster **Application**

Questions, comments, referral requests?

Contact: Joan Calcagno, Senior Program Manager
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
130 South Scott Ave.
Tucson, Arizona 85701
roster@ecr.gov
Direct Line: 520-901-8552
Main Office: 520-901-8501